

Sparta Perspective

By RUTH SHAFER
Phone 335-8933

Isn't there a story called "The Rains Came?" It sounds familiar for some reason. Anyway, the rains came here, all right, and came and came and came some more. Isn't it ever going to stop?

Each morning I look out the window, hoping, but it's just more of the same, weeping gray skies, grass growing at the rate of about two inches a day, at least, stacks of once nice dry wood still waiting to be put inside the woodshed which hasn't yet been made ready for it; and a dozen or so other autumn chores.

The garden shed beckons, but I think the less said about that the better. Everything got piled in there as I fully expected to get back to it but now I'm sure I've forgotten half of what it is. Maybe it will be fun to find out when I finally do get to it.

As for the garden proper, ah, me. There is something quite sad about a neglected garden, I think. Off to a poor start to begin with, mine really didn't have much of a chance. It has struggled valiantly against the lack of water, the onslaught of bugs and wind, not to mention a veritable wilderness of weeds and still has managed to produce a few things. I can see the bright yellow and orange of marigold blossoms, the shiny soft red of ripening tomatoes and even a cabbage or two here and there. And strangely enough, the acorn squash are the best I have ever had. Not a sign of bugs or wilt or mildew and all those lovely green squashes ready to be picked.

True, I never did find the

spinach so we ate some of the weeds which were so plentiful—you know, lamb's ears, dock, that sort of thing. Very good, too. In fact I like them better than the spinach. (So does Bosley. He won't touch spinach but he gobbles the other greens like crazy.)

Obviously, I can't blame a neglected garden on the rain. If, however, the rains will just let up for a while, I will be able to clean up this year's disaster and make way for spring. It will be different next year. At least, it will if everything else goes well. I have already planned the layout and though it isn't quite as ambitious as former gardens, it will be quite sufficient, and does include a lot more flowers, too. (I am, at least, I think, learning my limits.) But I do wish it would stop raining long enough to get out there and work.

To add insult to injury, as the saying goes, I saw a mouse in the house yesterday, right in broad daylight, too. Now I've not had a house mouse in years so I presume the rain is flooding them out of their normal habitats. Poor things—but I'm afraid I simply can't encourage them to make themselves at home in here. Even my hospitable nature rebels at going quite that far. Though I do remember once getting quite friendly with a house mouse.

It was not too long after World War II, when housing for folks in Rochester was as hard to come by as gold nuggets. The government kindly sought to help by throwing together some barracks-like buildings, dividing them into

apartments—so-called, but they were really rabbit warrens in disguise—and offered them to the returning veterans and their families. We were one of the "lucky" families.

To make a long story short, I was quite lonely in those days because John worked two jobs and was gone from 7 a.m. until midnight and two very small boys weren't the greatest of company in some ways. Most of the women around me worked too, so neither were they.

Well, one night I was reading and heard some small sounds. Looking up I discovered a small mouse nibbling at some crumbs I let fall from a piece of cake. Naturally, I said "hello." My mother taught me to always be polite. The mouse acknowledged the greeting with a small squeak and a nod of her head and thereafter returned each evening for a nibble and a few words. (It really was impossible to get rid of the little creatures because most of the tenants didn't even bother to try.) Anyway, Mrs. Mouse and I became quite friendly—and, do you know, I never saw another one anywhere in our apartment, nor any indications of others.

But that was all a long time ago, and I really don't need the company any more.

Perkinsville News

MRS. ADAM ENGEL

PHONE 728-2272

Kevin (Charlie Brown) Mark, son of Tim and Jane Mark, enlisted in the Army and departed Monday for basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood near Waynesville, Mo. Another one of our local teenagers to leave the nest. Parents who are experiencing the long term departure of one of their children for the first time have mixed feelings. Those of us who have gone through it know both survive.

Jeff Quinlan of Wayland suffered minor injuries Friday evening when he hit a pole with his car at the corner of Pfaff Hollow and McCurdy roads as a result of thick fog. Electric power was knocked out in that section for a couple of hours.

Ted and Betty Conrad spent a couple of days last week with friends, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Metzler in Pleasantville, Pa.

Carol Paige spent two days last week visiting her daughter, Becky and husband, Bob Smith and family in Pennsylvania.

Ethel McCullough was a patient in Noyes Memorial Hospital for several days last week. She was discharged and is now a resident of Klein's Nursing Home in Wayland.

Winner of the 50-week club at the Perkinsville Fire Hall Sept. 13 was Bart Jacobs of Dansville and last Sunday's winner was Charles Rathbun of Atlanta.

The Perkinsville Ladies Auxiliary will resume meetings Monday beginning with a tureen supper at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall. They welcome new members and encourage you to attend. If you have any questions you may call President, Liz Conrad 728-6035.

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Beatrice Last and other members of the family of Paul Emo who died Sept. 17.

Raymond and Jean Jakubiec and children of Livonia, Mich. spent the weekend here visiting her parents Sylvester and Bernie Morsch of Wayland and her uncle and aunt, Frances and Magdalen Morsch. They all enjoyed a tour of the Corning Glass Works on Saturday.

Gerry and Kay (Gunter) Myrabo of Winter Park, Fla., and Rita Sequeiros of Honduras arrived Sunday to spend this week with their sister, Magdalen Malter and family. They had been on a tour of the New England states and Canada, and I learned they visited St. Anne De Beaupre shrine last Tuesday and departed just before our bus arrived in the late afternoon.

Do you realize its only three months to Christmas? Are you looking for special gifts and home decorations? You're invited to the Perkinsville Community Center tonight at 7:30 where you can look over Christmas ideas, but in addition enjoy a fun time and refreshments with no obligation. Proceeds will benefit Sacred Heart Church.

Eleven parishoners from Sacred Heart, John and Alice Reynolds, Bill and Janet Last, Viola Bricks, Adeline Rechtenwald, Marian Conrad, Dorothy and Diane Robinson and Adam and I together with Rev. Ron Harley, eight parishoners of St. Pius Church and five from St. Mary's Church made a pilgrimage to the shrine in Canada last week.

Adieu Travel of Dansville made the arrangements for the "Marian Year Pilgrimage." We had beautiful weather while you were rained on here. The beauty of each of the shrines cannot be described but most important is the deep spiritual uplifting a person feels which has nothing to do with any particular religion. Everyone comes away knowing there's a supreme being.

I recently read an article in the Rochester paper written by Jack H. Smith which stirred memories and my gastric juices. Remember the saying "Chicken Every Sunday"? Sunday dinner was special and chicken in those days was expensive so it was served only on Sunday. Most homes had a chicken coop in the back yard and chickens pecking away in freedom. They raised their own chickens and canned them to use when company came. Speaking of company, my grandmother, Mary Bricks, always planned on company for Sunday dinner. She cooked plenty with that in mind. Friends would routinely stop for a visit after church services and Grandma would always urge them to stay for dinner. Who could resist when the aroma of roasting chicken and hot apple pies engulfed the house. Sunday dinner was between noon and no later than 1 o'clock. Very few families sit down together on a Sunday dinner today. The new trend is brunch and then snack the rest of the day. I've heard women say they don't cook on Sunday, that's their day off. Hopefully these families are forming other traditions that the children will refer back to in years to come.

A reminder to all Girl Scout Volunteers from the past 75 years of scouting in Wayland to get your dinner reservations to me or Carole Reynolds by Monday. The dinner scheduled at the Little House for Wednesday, Oct. 7 is in honor of Girl Scouts 75th birthday. It should be a fun time recalling, viewing pictures of former troops and telling stories of experiences with girls. Former Senior Girl Scouts who helped with younger girls are invited to attend. We're hoping for a full house.

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